

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2001
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

The meeting of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on January 24, 2001 at 10:15 a.m. at the Sacramento City Council Chambers at 915 I Street, Sacramento, California.

Members Present: Edward P. Graveline, Vice Chairperson
 Dr. Ernest A. Bates
 Jerry B. Epstein
 William E. Leonard
 Paul Morabito

Members Absent: Michael E. Tennenbaum, Chairperson
 Donna Andrews
 John P. Fowler
 T.J. Stapleton

Members' Report

Vice Chairperson discussed the March 1st Public meeting location. Members discussed which dignitaries to invite to the meeting. Member Bill Leonard's upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. was discussed.

Presentation of draft engineering standards for evaluating alignments and cost estimates for high-speed trains.

Executive Director Morshed introduced Kip Field of Parsons Brinckerhoff. Mr. Field presented a summary of the key findings of the peer reviews of SNFC, JARTS and DE Consult. Mr. Field highlighted four areas:

- ?? Operations and scheduling
- ?? Energy usage estimates
- ?? Equipment estimates
- ?? Travel time calculations

Compared the per review systems, other operating high-speed rail systems and developing systems with the California High-Speed Rail project. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Presentation of the outline for the statewide program-level EIR/EIS document and the draft objectives/purpose and need section of the document.

Executive Director Morshed gave an overall description of the program environmental document and introduced David Freytag and Marilyn Duffy of Parsons Brinckerhoff. Mr. Freytag and Ms. Duffy presented the draft outline for the statewide program EIR/EIS document, described the various required elements of the document and presented the draft objectives/purpose and need section of the document. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Member Morabito stated his concern with the conflict of the March 1, 2001 public board meeting and asked the staff to find a more suitable date for the town hall meeting in Palmdale.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mehdi Morshed stated Member Jerry Epstein's flight into Sacramento is delayed. Therefore, he will be arriving a couple of hours late. Upon Member Jerry Epstein's arrival, the board may vote on the action items. Executive Director Morshed stated the next public meeting is March 1, 2001. A 2001 public meeting schedule has not been determined because the composition of the board is uncertain. However, there is a need to move forward, therefore a draft meeting schedule will be provided at the next public meeting.

Executive Director Morshed stated in order to maintain our tight production schedule; we need to hear from the US DOT and FRA. Without a federal lead agency, we can either proceed with state document or slow things down until we have a federal lead agency.

Executive Director Morshed presented to the Board a copy of a letter from the Attorney General that emphasized the fact that the Authority is the sole entity responsible for the EIR document. The contractor's role is to provide the analytical work to the board in order for the Members to have the information needed decision making.

Review and Approval of Consulting Teams Draft Work Plan

Deputy Director John Barna, Jr. introduced the Los Angeles to San Diego via the Inland Empire program EIR team, gave an overview of the draft work plan and subsequently turned the presentation over to Linda Bohlinger, Project Manager. Ms. Linda Bohlinger presented the draft work plan for the Los Angeles to San Diego via the Inland Empire. A copy of this presentation is available upon request.

Review and Approval of Regional Environmental/Engineering Contract

Executive Director Mehdi Morshed introduced Deputy Director Dan Leavitt. Deputy Director Leavitt reported oral interviews were held on December 15, 2000. Three teams were interviewed: IBI Group, STV Incorporated, and Kimley-Horn and Associates. Deputy Director Leavitt reported Member Fowler and Mehdi Morshed monitored the interview process. The evaluation team consisted of Patrick Merrill, Caltrans; Linda Culp, SANDAG; Michelle Bitner-Smith, OCTA; John Barna, High Speed Rail Authority; Dan Leavitt, High Speed Rail Authority; and Carrie Pourvahidi, High Speed Rail Authority. Deputy Director Dan Leavitt reported the evaluation team selected IBI Group for the environmental/engineering work on the Los Angeles-Orange County-San Diego corridor.

Public Comment

John Shields, SpeedTrain

Mr. Shields inquired of:

1. San Diego Council of Government's activities.
2. Investing in hydroelectric PG&E facilities.

John, City of Bakersfield

John expressed his enthusiasm of the progress and support of the CHSRA project.

Member Epstein arrived and Members of the board voted on the action items as follows:

Approval of Minutes for December 14, 2000 Meeting

Vice Chairperson Graveline presented the minutes for approval with the following correction:

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Morshed stated that all the existing Board Members' terms ends on December 30, 2000. Morabito moved to approve the minutes with the said change. Member Leonard seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Authority Members' Meetings for Compensation

Member Morabito moved to approve the list. Member Leonard seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Review and Approval of Consulting Teams Draft Work Plan

Member Morabito moved to approve the draft work plan. Member Leonard seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Review and Approval of Regional Environmental/Engineering Contract

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate on behalf of the Authority and the negotiations will be in accordance with the Authority approved scope of work and budget. The Executive Director will approve the necessary contract amendments on behalf of the Authority. Member Leonard moved to approve in concept, the regional environmental/engineering contract, consistent with the Authority's earlier actions, giving approval in concept to the work plans for the program management contract and the other regional contracts. Member Morabito seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.